

A
DISCOURS
OF
HUSBANDRIE
USED IN
BRABANT
AND
FLANDERS;

SHEWING

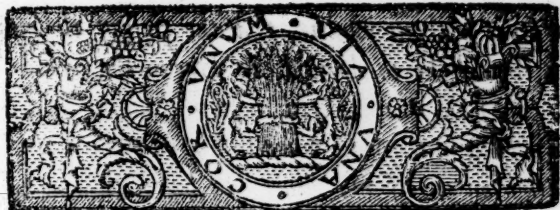
The wonderfull improvement of Land there ; and
serving as a pattern for our practice in this

COMMON-WEALTH.



L O N D O N,
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To
The Right Honorable
THE
COUNCIL OF STATE.



Although it is a dutie incumbent to all Men, as Men; and to all Professors, as Christians, to love Mankinde, as Christ loved us; and to imitate the God of the spirits of all flesh, who causeth his Sun to shine upon the good and the bad; and although there is a special delight, to do that which is good and commendable, onely for the love of Goodness it self, and the commendableness of Virtue; Yet, when wee meet with special and powerful encouragements to set us on, and provocations to draw forth our affections to laudable endeavors, wee must needs add som more effectual Zeal to the performance of these duties. For mine own part I

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may say it without vanitie, that the first of these motives, the delight to do good, in love to the Publick, hath supported mee hitherto, notwithstanding manifold destructions in the waie wherein I have walked. And as it hath been one of my Aims, to have the honor (if possibly I could attain unto it) of serving the Publick gratis, and at mine own cost, in the best things: So I have made it a part of my Agencie, to provoke others to do the like, by offering unto everie one, the things which might bee most advantagious unto themselves, by doing service unto others. And how far my affections have carried mee beyond my abilities in this course, I need not to mention: this hath onely been my comfort, that having served my Generation generously and freely, I never had cause to repent of what I had don, whether it were resented by others, or not. But now of late, seeing it hath pleased God, not onely by the settlement of this State in the waie of a Common-wealth, to give to all men a more open door then ever heretofore, to enter upon a concurrence to serv the Publick, that thereby they might both preserv and encrease their own welfare; but that I have found unexpectedly from your Honors som peculiar expression of favor towards my self, upon the account of my publick-heartedness; I must confess, that I am thereby not so much refresh-
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ed by reason of that which befalleth to my self, as delighted in the hopeful apprehension of that which befalleth to the Publick, whiles in this particular I am able to perceiv, that the good hand of God hath put the management of his Cause and Work in the hands of Men, whom hee hath endued with a publick spirit, which is a clear testimonie to mee, that hee will build thereon a superstructure, which by his grace upon your waies will redound to his glorie and evince unto the world, that it is not anie private Interest, but his Glorie and the Publick Happiness, which hath acted and doth act, both the Parliament and your selves in all your undertakings. And verily the consideration of this verie thing, that God hath set in publick places Men that minde the Publick for it self, and seek out those that are so inclined, although they make no special application unto them (which hitherto I have not don) is more worth to mee then the private advantage, which your Honors favor can bring unto mee. For although the straits, wherewith the times, and my own forwardness to serv others have cast mee, might induce mee to rejoyce at the fruit of your Honors bountie towards my self; Yet that is no waies comparable to the sens of joie, which I have at the clear Character, which this hath given mee of the spirit by which you are led; for herein I

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perceiv that henceforth the labors of impartial love towards the Publick, are not like to bee in vain, as for t'e most part they have been heretofore, and that there will bee som real encouragement for the making of rational overtures, tending to resolv that grand question, which is proposed by the Psalmist in the name of all men, who, with one an l the same accent say; ^{Psal.} 4.6. Who will shew us anie good? Therefore since the Wisdom of the Parliament hath enacted a waie to answer the Quere, as to the Trade of this Nation (which is a manifest demonstration of their eminent care for the Publick) it hath raised with joie both mine own, and the thoughts of som others to a forwardness of contributing, that which might bee subservient and useful to that design; that as Bees belonging to t'e same hive, wee should bring our honie together, to bee preserved and encreased in one stock for the good of all. In order to this resolution, and as a testimonie of gratitude, I thought it might bee seasonable to offer to your Honors, and under your name to the Publick, this following Epistolarie Discours, which relate's unto the advancement of Agriculture, beeing one of the Noblest and most necessarie parts of Industrie belonging to a Common-wealth, the first ground of mutual trading amongst men, and the well-
spring

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Spring of wealth in all well ordered Societies.
And if concerning this subject (as being a main Interest of State) som cours in due time were thought upon to set forward the Judicial, and regulate the Practical waie of Husbandrie, such overtures could bee made in that kinde, as would sensibly (even to the meanest capacity) demonstrate a very Cornu-Copia and fulness to bee attained of the choicest temporal blessings to supplie all men's wants. And although I cannot say much of mine own experience in this matter, yet Providence having directed mee by the improvement of several relations unto the Experiences and Observations of others, I finde my self oblig'd to become a conduit-pipe thereof towards the Publick, chiefly now, where there is so favorable an aspect of Patronage from those that are in eminent places towards those that minde publick advantages. I ROV. 11. 25. It is said in the Proverbs, that hee who doth withhold Corn the people shall curse him; but a blessing shall bee upon the head of him that selleth it. If not to impart the means of livelihood to those that stand in need thereof, when it is in our power to supplie them therewith, bee to withhold the same; and this deserves a curse: then no man can blame mee for the largeness of this communication, from which all
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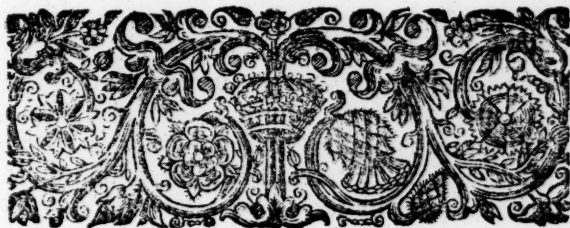
that shall reap anie benefit, are thereby to bee indebted unto your Publick affections, and bless them as the caus, whose influence hath given it this production; for it is included onelie as a pledg of further endeavors in the same and other kindes, for which the State in due time will bee beholden to your care and vigilance, when the tenders thereof shall finde that acceptance, and the furtherance thereof, that encouragement which your wisdom and love to the Publick shall finde expedient to bestow thereon. May the God of all grace and goodness so bless your Consultations for the good of this State, that they may end in the settlement of a firm and lasting Peace, where not onely outward Plentie and Prosperitie, but the treasures of a better life in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, may bee enjoied to the prais of God the Father. These are, and shall bee the dailie prayers of

Your Honor's

truly faithful and most

humble servant

SAMUEL HARTLIB.



A

Discours of Husbandrie used in
Brabant and Flanders ; Shewing the wonderfull
 improvement of Land there ; and
 serving as a pattern for our practice
 in this *Common wealth*.

IT is a certain thing, that the chiefeft and fundamentallest point in *Husbandrie*, is, to understand the nature and condition of the Lands that one would Till, & to Sow it with such Seeds, as it will produce either Naturally, or by Art, that which may turn to a man's greatest profit and advantage. I did think I had understood that point (when I went out of *England*) after thirtie years experience in *Husbandrie*, and having improved my Land, as much as anie man in this Kingdom hath don both by Water and Fire. But, after I had been a while in *Brabant and Flanders*, I found I was to learn a new Lesson, in point of *Husbandrie* ; for that the barrenest, Heathie and Sandie Lands in those Countries did produce richer Commodities, by an ordinarie waie of *Husbandrie* there in

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practice,

practice, then the strongest and richest grounds that were in both those Countries. When I first arrived at *Dunkirk*, and went to *Bridges*, (which was near fortie miles) I saw as rich a Countrie as ever my Eyes beheld, stockt with goodlie *Wheat* and *Barlie*, and excellent Meadows and Pastures. The soil began to alter into worf, midwaie between *Bridges* and *Gaunt*, which were twentie four *English* miles asunder; and so soon as I was past *Gaunt*, in my journie towards *Antwerp*, I did see such Land, for about twentie miles together, that I cannot compare anie ground more like, then the Land by *Sandie Chappel*, three miles distance from *Kingston upon Thames*. A great part of the Highwaies, out of the Road and Track of Horses and Carts, did bear Heath; and such Inclosures, on the inside of the Waies, which were not kept in Tillage, did either produce *Heath* or *Broom* of their own natures. The soil did not much amend until I came within two miles of *Antwerpe*, which was thirtie *English* miles from *Gaunt*. There I saw a goodlie Marsh or feeding ground for Cattel, which was kept with a strong Banck for beeing overflowed by the River of *Sceld*, under which notwithstanding there lay Sluces to let in the Water when they pleased, and Ditches were made in the Marsh to convey it back into the River at low Tides when they thought fit. On the other side of *Antwerp* was Contribution-land lying in *Brabant*, which naturally was as barren and apt to Heath as anie land betwixt that Citie, and *Gaunt*. I staid not long at *Antwerp* before I returned to *Gaunt*, and diligently reviewing the Countrie as I went back, I could finde no other Corn to grow there, then *Rie*, *Oats*, and
French

French Wheat; which seemed a sufficient Testimonie to mee of the barrenness of the soil, which would neither bear *Wheat*, *Barlie*, or *Peas*; and for that the former Grains did usually grow in *England* upon the edge of Forrests and Heathie grounds. A few daies after my return, I fell into discours with a Dutch *Merchant*, then living at *Gaunt*, but had lived som years in *England*, and told him that I did not think that all *Flanders* had yielded so much barren ground as I had seen between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*. Hee answered mee that that Land was the richest part of all *Flanders*. I smiled to hear him say so, thinking at first hee had jested, and I replied, that I believed, that one Acre of Land between *Bridges* and *Dunkirk*, was worth ten Acres of anie Land I saw there between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp* (excepting the Marsh-land and som little straps of Meadow by the River side): for one did bear goodlie *Wheat*, *Barlie*, and *Peas*, and was in manie places naturally excellent Meadow and Pasture; and the other would carrie no other Corn, but *Rie*, *French Wheat*, and *Oats*, and would never bear anie considerable grasse, but turn'd presently after it was laid down, to Heath or Broom. The Merchant told mee again, that their best Commodities were pul'd and cut before I went that waie; but hee would prove that the Land did yield more profit yearly then the best Land in *Flanders*, and that the *Bores* (for so they term their *Farmers*) were richer then in anie part of the Countrie. I must confesse at first I thought his discours to bee som kind of Riddle, but seeing him earnest in affirming that, which seem'd strange to mee; I desired him to explain himself, how it was possible, that, that Land

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should yield more profit then the other. I will tell you (said hee) the reason, why it yeildeth more profit, is, becauf that Land is natural to bear *Flax*, which is called the *Wealth of Flanders*; and one Acre of good *Flax* is worth four or five Acres of the best *Corn*, which groweth between *Dunkirk* and *Bridges*; and after the *Flax* is pull'd, it will bear a Crop of *Turneps*; which may bee better worth, Acre for Acre, then the best *Corn* in the Countrie. After that Crop is off, about April following you may sow the same Land with *Oats*; and upon them *Clover-grass* seed onelie harrowing it with bushes, which will com up after the *Oats* are mowed, and that year yield you a verie great Pasture till Christmas; and the next year following you may cut that grass threetimes, and it will everie time bear such a burden, and so good to feed all sorts of Cattel, as the best Meadows in the Countrie do not yield the like; and will continue good four or five years together without sowing it. After this wee parted. At first I wondered much at his discourf, but much more at the ignorance and sloathfulness of our Countrie which beeing near to *Flanders*, and manie Merchants and Gentlemen travelling thither daily, none should understand, or at least put in practice these *Husbandries*, there beeing so much Barren and Heathie Land in *England* of verie little value, which might by following their Example in these *Husbandries* bee made more profitable, then the best Land in this Kingdom. I after pondered what the Merchant said all that daie and the next, and then began to imagine with my self, what an huge *Improvement* I might make of my own Estate, if these things were true which hee had told

told mee, and if God Almighty pleased to permit mee quietly to enioie it. And to bee further satisfied, I sent another *Dutchman* in the Town that had been in *England*, with whom I was grown acquainted, and desired him to inform himself from som of the *Bores* in the Countrie, whether those things the Merchant had affirmed to mee were true. Hee returned mee an Answer from three or four, whom hee said hee knew to bee honest men and understanding those *Husbandries*, that a *Gammet* of *Flax*, (which was their Acre, but somewhat more in quantitie then ours) might well produce fourtie or fiftie pounds worth of *Flax*, if the Land were well dung'd and Husbanded, and sowed with good East- Countrie seed, and that it pleas'd God to send convenient rain after it was sowed, and a seasonable time till Harvest. These were no other conditions, then I conceived all other seeds and grain to bee subject to, either to prove good or bad. And for the other questions wherein I desired to bee satisfied, concerning the *Turneps* and *Clover-grass*, hee told mee they did concur in all with the Merchant, without anie other condition or limitation. The Winter after I did examine divers persons upon the like questions, who I thought did understand that business, and found very little difference in their relations. And in April following, which was the chiefeft time for sowing of *Flax* and *Clover-grass*, I did often walk into the Fields a mile or more out of the Town, and expostulated the business with the *Bores*, when they were sowing of *Flax* and *Clover-grass*-seed, and afterwards observ'd that these things did prosper verie well, on such ground as I conceiv'd to bee extreme barren of its own Nature.

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But further to inform my self more fully what an Acre of *Flax* might bee worth, I bought an *English* rod of *Flax*, when it was grown up, neither the best nor worst, and caused it to bee pull'd, water'd, and dres'd by it self; then valued it as *Flax* was sold the week following in the market at *Gaunt*, and the seed likewise afterwards. I cast up what eightie rod, which was an Acre, would rise unto, according to that valuation; and I found that it came to thirtie six pound, fourteen shillings, six pence, and though by that rate an Acre did not com to fortie pound, yet it made mee believ, that an Acre of good *Flax* might bee worth fortie pound and more; for that which I tried was but indifferent *Flax*.

I went presently afterwards to *Antwerp*, and saw almost everie third or fourth field by the highwaie side for twentie five miles together, stocked with goodlie *Flax*, far beyond that which I bought to make my Trial off; Whereof som was pull'd, and the rest was ready to pull. The similitude of a great quantitie of Land I had in *England* unto theirs in *Flanders* and *Brabant*, which I saw did bear their richest Commodities: and my Los in *England* both of personal and real Estate, made mee enquire after all *Husbandries* of those Countries, of such as I conceiv'd could anie way instruct mee, that I might learn somthing, or other, whereby to repair my fortunes, if hereafter it pleas'd Almighty God to give mee leav to enioie my own Estate in Peace again. And beeing one daie in companie of som Merchants, It happen'd that *discours* fell out about *Improvment* of their barren ground. I said that I had a great quantitie of Barren and Heathie Land

Land in *England*, that I thought might bee easily brought to bear *Flax*, *Turneps*, and *Clover-grass* as well as their barren Lands did in *Flanders* and *Brabant*. To which a Merchant answered, that hee would carrie mee to a man within three miles of *Antwerp*, who had taken a *Farm upon Improvement*, which was just such Heathie Land as I describ'd mine to bee. For hee was about five years since to have bought it, and when hee saw it all Heath, hee would not meddle with it; but the *Farmer* had so improv'd it alreadie, that hee had now growing upon it, a Nurserie of twelv Acres of all sorts of Trees, as *Pear-Trees*, *Apple-Trees*, *Cherrie-Trees*, *Chestnut* and *Walnut-Trees*, *Oaks*, *Ashes*, *Elms*, and the like; hee had there also growing, both *Flax*, *Turneps*, *Clover-grass*, *Roman Beans* and most sorts of Corn, and hee had planted a *Hop-ground* and an *Orchard*; hee said hee would tell mee what *Husbandrie* hee used to make such a strange Conversion, and that I could not pleas him better then to com to see it: and hee did assure mee, that it was worth my Journie to bee inform'd from him: for never a man in that Countrie could better instruct mee, then hee; and I will (said hee) go thither with you, when you pleas. I thanked him verie kindly for his offer, and told him I would wait upon him thither to morrow morning. It was agreed between us both to see this wonder. But I asked him before wee parted, what that taking of a *Farm upon Improvement* was, which hee before did speak of. Hee answered, that when another had bought the Land, this man offered more Rent then hee could make of it at that time, to have a Leaf for one & twentie years, upon condition, that whatsoever
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four indifferent persons (whereof two to bee chosen by the one, and two by the other) should judge the Farm to bee improved above the Rent at the end of his Lease, the *Owner* was to pay so much in value to the Tenant for his improving it. I told him it was a waile of letting land I never knew of before: Hee answered it was an ordinarie waile with them of letting such barren Land, as men could not tell how to manage themselves.

The next daie, wee went thither, and the first thing wee saw was his *Nurserie of trees*, which did grow and prosper verie well, and hee made accompt they would yield him ten thousand pounds before his Lease was expired and as I remember hee valued them one with another but at two shillings a tree. Then I saw a little *Clofe of flax*, which I esteemed to bee about three english acres: of which flax hee told mee, the Merchant that brought mee thither before I came from *Antwerp*, that hee had made a hundred and fiftie pounds, which was by computation fiftie pounds an Acre. I also saw growing there verie good *Turneps*, and excellent *Clover-grass*, which hee valued to bee then worth twelvy pound an acre. I after saw it cutting the first daie of *June* 1644, beeing then two foot long, and very thick, and went thither again the nine and twentieth daie of the same moneth, and saw the same grass grown up, and then cutting again, beeing twentie Inches long, I saw it cutting again in *August* following, beeing then eighteen inches long. I viewed the grounds round about, and found the skirts of the Clofes left unploughed to bee heath: and both hee and the Merchant affirmed, all the rest, where his *flax* and *Clover-grass* grew,

grew, was heath but three years before. I was verie inquisitive of him to know what husbandrie hee used to the land, for to convert it from heath to bear such rich Commodities. Hee told mee, first hee broke it up with a strong Team of horses, then ploughed it crosse, afterwards tore off the heath with a great harrow, then gathered it up and burnt it, and laid about twentie loads of dung upon an acre, and spread it upon the Land; then ploughed it again, and sowed the first crop with *Rye*, the next with *Oats*; and when hee had harrowed his *oats*, hee sowed *Clovergrass* seed upon them, which hee harrowed with a bundle of bushes under his harrow, and that came, after the *Oats* was off, to bee of a verie good pasture before *Michaëlmass*; and this third year hee had mowed the *Clover-grass* thrice, as I had seen, and it would com to a verie good pasture quickly, to feed till *Chrismas*; and the same hee thought hee should do for three years more; but afterwards the ground would turn to an ordinarie grass. Hee said, hee used his ground where his flax grew, as his other; but first again, about half the quantitie of dung hee did at first; and then sowed it with flax, and upon the flax *Clovergrass*-seed, as hee had don before upon the *Oats*. his *Roman-beans*, his Hops, and *Orchard* thrived verie well, and all with the same quantitie of dung, proportionably used; for there they know no other *Manure*. I askt him how hee could make 12 l an acre of this *Clover-grass*: hee said, either dy feeding *Cattle*, or keeping *Kine*, or laying it for seed after the first cutt. For an Acre of it beeing made part into haie, and the rest fed green, would

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keep four Kine, winter and summer; and an Acre laid for seed might carrie five bushels, which valued at 6 d. a pound, comē's to 8 l. Sterling; besides the first and second cuts of grasse and hay, and the after-pasture. Hee said the best time for sowing *flax* and *Clovergrasse*-seeds was about the beginning of *April*, presently after a shour of rain. Som continue sowing of *flax* untill the end of *Maie*, and som sow after; though I know no caus to commend their slowness, in sowing of it so late. I was not verie inquisitive after his other Commodities. I saw by his *Turneps* which hee had sowed upon his heathie land, at his first breaking up, that hee differed in that point from all other husband-men in those Countries, who sowed them immediately after *Rye* or *flax*; but those things are left to everie ones experience to proceed therein as hee think's best, according to his own Observation. Now what I had observed here, and between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, my Reason told mee, grounded upon som former experience, that there was no land that naturally bore heath, beeing either of a sandie, or loamie mould, but might by *devonshiring* first (which I prefer before their Husbandrie in *Flanders*, whereunto adding som *Dung*, or *Lime*, or *Marle*, in fit proportion as shall bee hereafter exprest) may bee made better then the best land, that *Flanders* or *England* doth afford. For no man with reason can denie, but that *Land is best, which will bring forth such Commodities as will yield most monie to make one wealthy and rich*, for though wealth and Riches may consist either in Cattle, Corn, householdstuff, Plate, Jewels; yet, when

when those things are valued, wee commonly say, they are worth so much *monie*. So *Regina Pecunia*, *Monie* is the *Queen* that commands all. Now if the same quantitie of Acres of poor heathie Land, by producing *Flax*, *Turneps*, and *Clovergrass*, will yield more monie then the rich Land, which beareth wheat, barlie, meadow, and good pasture: then by consequence it followeth, that the *poor* Land is better then the *Rich*. And I suppose that they finde by experience in *Flanders* that their rich land will naturally bear those Commodities; otherwise they could not bee ignorant that they do so far exceed their best Corn and Meadows in matter of profit, which appeareth clearly by their own valuations: for they value an Acre of *flax* may bee worth fortie or fiftie pound. An Acre of *Turneps* worth eight pound, or ten pound; an Acre of *Clovergrass* worth ten or twelve pound, whereas they value their best *barlie* may bee worth ten or twelve pound, their best *wheat* may bee worth five or six pound an Acre, and their best meadow worth four or five pound an Acre: Now if yee compare the value of these Commodities together, supposing the rich Land will not bear the other, which are the richer Commodities, so well as the poor; you must needs conclude the poorer Land to bee the better. And it is a strong Argument to mee, that their rich land will not bear those rich Commodities so naturally as the heathie and sandie Land doth; for though I went often between *Bridges* and *Dunkirk*, which is thirtie nine miles, beeing the richest Land in *Flanders*, and where there is goodlie *wheat*, *barlie*, and *meadows*, as ever my eyes beheld; yet I never

saw in all that ground, to my remembrance, one Acre of *Flax*, or *Clover-grass*: whereas, on the contrarie, between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, (which is thirtie miles, and the poorest Land in all the Countie, much like *Sandie-Chappel* in *Surreie*, or som part of the Heathie Land in *Windsor-Forrest*) I have seen manie hundreds of Acres of goodly *Flax*, *Turneps*, and *Clover-grass*, close by the Highwaie side, and their Corn there not anie thing but *Rie*, *French Wheat*, and *Oats*.

It is not onelie dung, which causeth the fertilitie in those Barren, Heathie, and sandie Lands for to bring forth those rich Commodities; but partly the nature of those seeds, which do delight to grow rather in a light and gentle Land, then in one too stiff and heavie. Though it is true, that dung is of that virtue, that it heat's, fatten's, sweeten's, and reclaim's all Barren grounds: and unslakt *Lime* and *Marl* are of as great an Efficacie, beeing proportionably tempered with *Earth* and *Ashes*, and of longer continuance to enrich Land, as I will shew hereafter. But becaus som will say, that the *burning of the Turff* (which wee call *Devonshiring*) will make the ground the worst after three years, I do most confidently affirm, upon my own experience, that, with the addition of *Dung*, or *Lime*, or *Marl*, in fit proportions, there is no such *Husbandrie* in the World, perfectly to prepare anie Heathie Land and make it nourish, receiv and ripen seeds. For the Earth is, as it were, renewed by the Fire, having no other Roots in the entrails of it, produceth nothing for manie years but what one sow's upon it; and shall remain vigorous enough to serv as long as one of knowledge and understanding will desire it. And therefore

I shall advize you to prefer this *Husbandrie* upon your Heathie Land before anie other.

Though they have no other manure to mend their Land, but Dung in the Barren and Heathie Land in *Flanders* and *Brabant*: yet they have a verie fine way in *Brabant* to raise a great quantitie of Dung; the practise whereof may much advance the Improvement of *S^t Leonard's* Forrest. They that keep sheep there, upon the Heaths, house them everie night, and in the Summer, at noon, first having laid three or four Inches of Sand at the bottom of the Floor, wherein they lodge their sheep for a night or two, which tread their Dung and Piss into the Sand, and so they daily use more Sand to be used in the same manner, until the quantitie be grown so great, that the sheep cannot conveniently go in or out. Then they cast that out of the House, and put in more Sand, and so proceed throughout the year, and by that means three or four hundred sheep will raise one thousand Loads of Dung in a year: and eight hundred sheep two thousand Loads, which, allowing twentie Loads to an Acre, will Dung an hundred Acres yearly: and this Dung by experience doth mightily improve such Heathie Land as *S^t Leonard's* is. Besides there is *Marl* in most part of the *Forrests*. I account anie *mine* that is free from stones, and lieth so thick, as it is worth the digging, and near and convenient to carrie to your Land, and of clammy substance, when it is wet, though it seem onely *Clay* or *Loam*, yet to be *Marl*, and verie good Manure for Sandie and Heathie Land, be it of what Color it will; as either Graie, Yellow, or Blue; and fortie Loads of it laid upon an Acre in Summer, and

presently spread, and so let lie all Winter to incorporate with the earth, then *Devonshired* the next *March*, and spread upon the Land and Sow'd, will mightily improve it. I did use six Acres thus, that was nothing but *Heath*, and had two Crops of Corn from it; and the third year it came of it self to bee as good Grasse, as ever I saw grow in anie Meadow in *England*. I saw another great Improvement in Clement *Stokes's* Farm adjoining to the Forrest; hee had Land, that hee let out, two years together, for twelv pence an Acre: at last hee *Devonshired* it, and caused his hills, before they were burnt, to bee set a just rod square one from another; and when they were burnt, hee put a peck of un-slackt *Lime*, which was fortie Bushels, this *Lime* being slackt in the hills, with the first Rain was mingled together with the Ashes, and then spread upon the Land, and after Sow'd with *Wheat*; and brought as good as anie was in the Countrie: brought next year a verie good Crop of *Oats*, and the year following com to as good Grasse as anie hee had to his Farm. This I hold to bee the cheapest *Husbandrie*: becauf four or five Load of *Fern*, of which there is store in the Forrest, being cut from the beginning of *July* to the middle of *August* will burn off twelv Loads of *Chalk Lime*; and though your *Chalk* cost dear the bringing thither; yet the *Lime* will not stand you in twelv shillings a Load, and by this waie you save much carriage, and so by consequence may compass to manure yearly much more Land. As for Example, you carrie but one Load of *Lime* to your Land, whereas by the other waies you must carrie twentie Loads of Dung; and fortie Loads of Marl. So as by the *Lime*, if that will do

do as well, you may *Lime* twentie Acres as soon as you can Dung one Acre, and fortie Acres for one with *Marl*; But I advize you to make Trial your selv's of all these severall *Husbandries*, and then to follow that which you finde cheapest and best.

I have set down at large, how I came first to know the *Husbandries*, and how I was satisfied in the particulars. I have also set down three severall waies to improve your Land; now I will lay down the charge in severalltie; then cast up the profit from one Acre to five and twentie Acres; then to fiftie, and so to an hundred Acres; by which it shall appear, that by an ordinarie waie of *Husbandrie*, according to the vawew, which they make of like Commodities in *Flanders*, how that by improving a hundred Acres of Heathie Land everie year, as namely of *St Leonard's* Forreft, and Sowing the Seeds of *Flax*, *Turneps*, and *Clover-grass*, you may in five years improve five hundred Acres to bee worth abov seven thousand pounds a year. The particular charge of an Acre of *Flax* is as followeth.

| | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|----|
| First, the <i>devonshiring</i> of an Acre | — | 01 | 00 | 00 |
| A load of Lime to put into the Hills | — | 00 | 12 | 00 |
| The ploughing and harrowing of an Acre | — | 00 | 06 | 00 |
| The bushel of <i>flax-seed</i> at thirteen shil. | } | 02 | 00 | 00 |
| lings four pence the bushel. | | | | |
| The weeding of an Acre | — | 00 | 10 | 00 |
| Pulling and binding an Acre | — | 00 | 10 | 00 |
| Graffing the seed from the flax | — | 00 | 06 | 00 |
| Watering, drying, swinging and beating | } | 04 | 10 | 00 |
| the flax of nine hundred weight upon an | | | | |
| Acre. | — | | | |

This

presently spread, and so let lie all Winter to incorporate with the earth, then *Devonshired* the next *March*, and spread upon the Land and Sow'd, will mightily improve it. I did use six Acres thus, that was nothing but *Heath*, and had two Crops of Corn from it; and the third year it came of it self to bee as good Grasse, as ever I saw grow in anie Meadow in *England*. I saw another great Improvement in Clement Stokes's Farm adjoining to the Forrest; hee had Land, that hee let out, two years together, for twelve pence an Acre: at last hee *Devonshired* it, and caused his hills, before they were burnt, to bee set a just rod square one from another; and when they were burnt, hee put a peck of unslackt *Lime*, which was fortie Bushels, this *Lime* bee- ing slackt in the hills, with the first Rain was mingled together with the Ashes, and then spread upon the Land, and after Sow'd with *Wheat*; and brought as good as anie was in the Countrey: brought next year a verie good Crop of *Oats*, and the year following com to as good Grasse as anie hee had to his Farm. This I hold to bee the cheapest *Husbandrie*: becauf four or five Load of *Fern*, of which there is store in the Forrest, bee- ing cut from the beginning of *July* to the middle of *August* will burn off twelv Loads of *Chalk Lime*; and though your *Chalk* cost dear the bringing thither; yet the *Lime* will not stand you in twelv shillings a Load, and by this waie you save much carriage, and so by consequence may compass to manure yearly much more Land. As for Example, you carrie but one Load of *Lime* to your Land, whereas by the other waies you must carrie twentie Loads of Dung; and fortie Loads of Marl. So as by the *Lime*, if that will
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do as well, you may *Lime* twentie Acres as soon as you can Dung one Acre, and fortie Acres for one with *Marl*; But I advize you to make Trial your selv's of all these severall *Husbandries*, and then to follow that which you finde cheapest and best.

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| | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|----|
| First, the <i>devonshiring</i> of an Acre | — | 01 | 00 | 00 |
| A load of Lime to put into the Hills | — | 00 | 12 | 00 |
| The ploughing and harrowing of an Acre | — | 00 | 06 | 00 |
| The bushel of <i>flax seed</i> at thirteen shil. } lings four pence the bushel. | | 02 | 00 | 00 |
| The weeding of an Acre | — | 00 | 10 | 00 |
| Pulling and binding an Acre | — | 00 | 10 | 00 |
| Graffing the seed from the flax | — | 00 | 06 | 00 |
| Watering, drying, fwinging and beating } the flax of nine hundred weight upon an } Acre. | | 04 | 10 | 00 |

This

This is the uttermost charge that I L S D
could learn: to the whole cometh to ———— 9 5 00

Nine hundred pound weight of *Flax*,
upon an Acre at eight Stivers the pound,
which was an ordinarie price in *Gaunt*, } 40 00 00
when I was there, together with the
Seed, valued to bee worth ————— }

Now if you deduct fifteen shillings, an
Acre, more, towards Charges or Losses,
the Account beeing alreadie ten pound an
Acre, short of the value of their best } 750 00 00
Flax, yet remain's abov all Charges clear
for an Acre ————— }

By the same Account you will bee at
five hundred pound charge for fiftie
Acres and then receiv at fortie pound an } 1500 l.
Acre, two thousand pound; but clear abov
all Charges but ————— }

The like Account of a thousand pound
charge for an hundred Acres; you receiv
upon the Account of fortie pound an } 3000 l.
Acre four thousand pound; but clear
abov all Charges ————— }

This thousand pound Charge for an hundred Acres
is onely supposed, in case you lay out all the Charge
before you receiv anie Money for part of your *Flax*;
but before you are out seven hundred pound, som
Money

Money will com in for *Flax* continually, so as indeed you shall not go out abov seven hundred pound at all in stock, and after the first years profit is com in, you cannot Account that you are out anie thing from your pursf, becauf you have your full stock again, and three thousand pound more.

But this is not all the profit you are to exspect from your hundred Acres the first year; for after the *Flax* is pull'd, which will bee either in *Julie* or *August*, the same Land may bee sowed with *Turneps*, and, prove according to the *Flanders* Account, worth eight pound an Acre, over and abov all charges: so twentie five Acres cometh to two hundred pound; fiftie Acres to four hundred pound, and an hundred Acres to eight hundred pound. They sow in *Flanders* but two Bushels and a half of *Turnep* seed upon an Acre, which was worth, when I was there, but twelv pound, and plough it once after the *Flax* is pull'd, they harrow it, and weed it, if there bee causf, and that is all their charge concerning that businesf.

Both these Crops are sow'd, ripe and readie to bee pull'd within eight moneths; that is, between the beginning of *April* and the end of *November*: so the profit of an hundred Acres, the first year, cometh to, besides all charges on this Account, unto three thousand eight hundred pound. And the hundred pound allow'd for charges, may very well com into your pursf again within the other four Months.

When the *Turneps* are pull'd, I would have the same hundred Acres made readie again to bee sow'd with *Clover-grass* seed alone, about the beginning of *April* then next following, therein altering the custom

18 *The Husbandrie of Brabant and Flanders.*

of *Brabant* and *Flanders*, which is to sow it immediately either with or after the Corn. For I found by Experience in Herefordshire, that it will thrive much better the first year, and turn to more profit alone, then a Crop of *Oats* and it sow'd together will do.

The charges of an Acre is first ploughing and harrowing about ————— 00 05 00

Ten pound of seed as it cost mee at *Antwerp* 1645 at sixpence a pound ————— 00 05 00

Cutting the Grasse, twice making the Haie, and threshing out the seed. ————— 01 10 00

So the whole charge is ————— 02 00 00

The second years profit.

Which beeing deducted there remain's
clear for one Acre, according to the *Brabant* } 10 l.
and *Flanders* Account. }

Which for twentie five Acres cometh to
two hundred and fittie pound, for fittie } 1000 l.
Acres, to five hundred pound, and for an hun-
dred Acres to ————— }

Then an hundred Acres must bee Devon-
shired and sow'd with *Flax* and *Turneps*, as is
before expressed, which, with Gods blessing,
may yield the like profit of three thousand
eight hundred pound, when to the thousand } 4800 l.
pound above mention'd for *Clover-grass*, bee-
ing added the whole profit of the second
year from two hundred Acres, amounteth to
four thousand eight hundred pound. }

The

The third years profit.

Then the last hundred Acres, sowed with *flax* and *Turneps*, must bee sowed as before, with *Clover-grass* seed, which, according to the former accompt coming to one thousand pound, and a hundred Acres more *devonshired*, as formerly, and sowed with *flax* and *Turneps*, yielding the like profit of three thousand eight hundred pound, as is before specified, adding thereunto the two hundred Acres of *Clovergras*, the whole profit of the third year is } 5800 l.

The fourth years profit.

Then the hundred Acres sowed before with *flax*, and *Turneps*, must bee sowed as formerly with *Clover-grass* seeds, which yielding a thousand pound, according to the former Accompts, and another hundred Acres *devonshired* as formerly, and sowed with *flax* and *Turneps*, and yielding like profit of three thousand eight hundred pound, and adding thereunto the three hundred Acres formerly sowed with *Clover-grass* seed, mak's the whole profit of the fourth year _____ } 6800 l.

The fifth years profit.

Then the last hundred Acres sowed with *flax* and *Turneps*, must bee sowed as before

with Clover-grafs-seed, which yielding like profit of a thousand pound, and another hundred Acres *devonshired* as formerly, and sowed with flax and Turneps, yielding the like profit of three thousand eight hundred pounds, thereto adding the four hundred Acres formerly sowed with Clovergrafs seed, make's the whole profit of the fifth year

7800 l.

Thus have I plainly shewed what I promised in my Preface, that was, how an industrious man in *Brabant* and *Flanders* would convert five hundred Acres of barren and heathie Land from little value in five years to bee worth above seven thousand pounds a year.

You see, you have better means to mend your Land then they have; your Land lieth in a manner under the same Climate; for *Chichester* and *Mecklin* are in one degree; the Soil is much alike, as I have shewed, you may have as good a vent for your Commodities, as they have for theirs, if you please; and therefore I do not know what Reason can hinder you from putting those things into practice.

You may continue this yearlie profit of seven thousand eight hundred a year upon this five hundred Acres. If you will by *Liming*, *dunging*, or *marling*, and *devonshiring* again the first hundred Acres, laid down with *Clover-grass*, and sowing it with *flax*, and *Turneps* as before, and so go round with everie hundred acres, as formerly in its course; but having great store of barren and heathie ground, you were better

better improve that, and let the *Clover-grass* continue as long as it will. And if after five years continuance it turneth to a mingled Grass; yet that will bee as good as most Meadows and Pastures, that I know in *England*; for it turn's commonly from a red honie suckle to a white, which wee repute the sweetest Grass, although it doth not carrie the greatest burthen. And I am perswaded it will continue longer if it bee kept for Seed and cut but twice, whereas they commonly cut it thrice a year in *Flanders* alwaies in the Sap, which will kill Fern.

Now I will shew you how they vent these Commodities, that you may learn the better, how to vent yours. First, they make great store of Linnen themselves, and send it most for *London*, what they make not in Cloth; they have a Market every Thursdaie at a place call'd *St Nicolas*, almost midwaie between *Antwerp* and *Gaunt*, whither Merchants com on purpose to buy it, and send it into *Holland*, and there sell it at dear rates. I met with a Linnen Draper of *London*, when I was at *Gaunt*, and questioning him what vent there was for *Flax* at *London*: hee told mee that before these troublesom times, if I had had a verie great quantitie, hee could have helped mee to Chapman to have bought it off at dearer rates at *London*, then usually they sold it at in *Flanders*; for hee said hee did believ there was not less then a hundred thousand pounds worth of *Flax* brought yearly into *England* from forreign parts; a great part whereof to his knowledge was sent from *London* into *Lancashier*; there made into Cloth, and afterwards brought back in Cloth, and sold in *London*; and if times grew peaceable

able again in *England*, hee told mee I need not doubt the venting of more *Flax* at *London*, then ever I would have to sell; and two honest *English* Merchants of my Acquaintance did assure mee, that if I could not sell my *Flax* at *London* to my content, they would transport it for mee into *Holland*, where I might sell it dearer, then they sold their *Flax* in *Flanders*: for Merchants usually sent for *Flax* out of *Flanders* and sold it again in *Holland*, at dearer rates then they paid for it there.

But if you finde that these Commodities thrive with you, and you grow rich by them; I would advise you to send for som workmen out of *Flanders*, that understand the Manufacture of Linnen Cloath, and make your *Flax* into Linnen Cloath, you cannot choof but gain by it exceedingly, when you are aforehand with the World, if they live by it who fetch it first from *London* into Lancashire by Land; beeing made in Cloth, recarrie it up; and besides you shall do a charitable deed by bringing in that Manufacture into the Kingdom. For it keep's a very great number of poor Women and Children at Work in *Flanders* and *Holland*, that otherwise would not have means to live. So by this waie you should bee sure to vent your *Flax*, and withall procure a publick benefit to the Kingdom.

The *Husbandrie* of *Turneps* is as Common between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, as that of *Flax*; for, as there is more *Flax* sowed there, then of anie other *Grain* or *Corn*; so Commonly, after the *Flax* is pull'd, immediately they sow *Turneps*, and presently after their *Rie*; what they do not eat themselves they give unto their Cattel;

Cattel, they will feed Oxen and Kine as far, as Hay or Oats ; the Roots beeing clean Washed , and then Roots and Leavs beeing put into a Trough. and there stamp together with a Spitter, and after boild in Water and given to Kine will makethem abound in Milk, yet grow so fat withall, that you would wonder at it. The onely difficultie is to make you Cattel eat them at first ; but breed them up by hand, as they do there. Others do the same alreadie. in manie parts of *England*, they will take *Turneps* and eat, or anie other thing you will givethem.

To encourage you the more to sow *Turneps*, I will demonstrate unto you what an Acre of them transplanted may bee worth by Calculation as they are sold in *London*. They commonly there sell four or five *Turneps* in a bunch for a pennie. A rod square beeing sixteen foot and a half may bear a thousand eight hundred and nine *Turneps*, beeing set at half a foot distance the one from the other. Now suppose that a thousand cometh to good, and five sold for a pennie, then a Rod of them amount's to sixteen shillings eight pence, and an Acre of them beeing eightscore Rod by the same Account, com's to above thirtie pound, and therefore certainly an hundred Acres sow'd, may bee very well valu'd at eight pound an Acre one with another, when you have brought your Cattel to eat them as theirs do.

I told you before how in *Brabant* and *Flanders* they made twelv pound an Acre of their *Clover-grass*, either by feeding Cattle, keeping Kine, or by the seed ; which, commonly encreasing to five Bushels upon an Acre, was worth eight pound when it was sold, but at
sixpence

sixpence a pound ; but beeing sold for two shillings a pound (which price I my self now paid for it) the value of the Seed quadruple's from eight pound to thirtie two pound an Acre ; and the man that sold mee seed this year for two shillings a pound, desir's all that I can spare, the next year at the same price, if you get but into the best kind of those they use in *Flanders*. For when your Neighbors see your Labers thrive and prosper so far as to convert your Land which bore nothing but Heath, for manie Ages, *First* into excellent *Flax*, then into such delicate *Turneps*, as they never saw before or tasted, and to end with such *Clover-grass*, as they will admire, when they once see your Crops, and somewhat understand, that you do reap som benefit by them, they will com to you as to an *Oracle* to ask your Counsel, and bee instructed and desire it from you as a favor, at first to buy your Seed at anie reasonable price.

But if you finde that you have more Seed of *Flax* and *Turneps* (if you will let them grow to Seed) then you can vent, you must then set up either a *Water-Mill*, or *Wind-Mill*, as they do in *Flanders*, and make them into *Oil* ; both which Seeds mak's good *Oil*, which you may bee sure to sell in *London* at good Rates.

And for your *Clover-grass*-seed, if you finde you cannot sell it to your content, you may choof whether you will let it grow to Seed or not ; and if you do not let it grow to Seed, you may cut it once more in a year, then otherwise you could do.

You must change your *Flax* Seed, though never so good at first after four years, the other Seeds do not so much require it.

I doubt not but these things will seem as strange to you at first, as they did to mee; and therefore I desire you but to try what I propose, upon such profitable Terms, as no man, that is well in his wits, but will venture at them, beeing laid down so plainly to you, as a childe may understand them.

You may observ, that *Flax*, *Turneps* and *Clover-grass*, alreadie grow in *England*; but there is as much difference between what groweth there, and here, as is between the same thing, which groweth in a Garden, and that which groweth wilde in the Fields.

To prevent what may bee strange or troublesom to you at First for want of knowledg, I would advise you to send to *Tom* or *Robin* to *Gaunt*, where by means of som of their old Acquaintance there, they may provide you a servant, who understand's these severall Husbandries as well as anie of ours do the *Husbandrie* in getting Corn; and by observing of his practice, you your selv's, or whom you will appoint may bee sufficiently instructed in a year or two so far, as to Command such things to bee don by others as are not fit and necessarie to bee don by your selv's.

Besides the excessive profit you will reap by Sowing these Commodities, imagine what a pleasure it will bee to your Eies and Sent, to see the Russet Heath turn'd into greenest Grass; which doth produce most sweet and pleasing Honie-Suckles; and what Prais and Reputation you will gain by your Examples, first introducing that into your Countrie, which beeing followed by others, must need's redound to the general benefit of the whole Common-wealth. I do by my *Will* Command you for to execute no more,

E then

then what I would my self to morrow put in practice;
if I had Libertie: you should learn these things I have
set down by *Examples*, which I am enforc'd to leav
you as a Father's *Precepts*, and with a Father's blessing
to you all, desiring God Almighty to guide you
and direct you in all your Actions, I will leav you to
his divine protection and providence.

F I N I S.



